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INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

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TO: G - Mr. Wirth
FROM: INR - Toby T. Gati
SUBJECT: African support for UNAMIR II

UNSCR 918, passed on May 17, 1994, calls for a 5,500-member UNAMIR (United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda) peacekeeping force. By the end of May, five Sub-Saharan African states had pledged over 3,000 troops for what has always been envisaged as a largely African peacekeeping force (see attached list). To date, thirteen Sub-Saharan African states have made pledges exceeding 4,500 troops. While additional African states may offer still more soldiers, medical personnel or modest amounts of equipment, serious financial and logistical problems may prevent their actual deployment.

A Pan-African response. The vast majority of the units offered are to be drawn from five states--Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, and Zimbabwe--which collectively have offered to send some 3,500 troops. Ghana's contingent is already in Kigali and some elements are soon to deploy to western Rwanda. Several hundred Senegalese, a Chadian company, and a small multinational Francophone contingent are already serving with French troops in "Operation Turquoise". The French and the

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government in Kigali are now intensely discussing whether the government will accept the transfer of these Francophone troops to UNAMIR. This transfer is vital to UNAMIR's future because most of the pledged African troops are from English-speaking countries, while the only world language spoken by most Hutus is French.

Good intentions and limited capabilities. Most African states have offered only troops. Zimbabwe, Ethiopia and other potentially large peacekeeping contributors have indicated that they will require some combination of medical supplies, communications equipment, airlift support, vehicles, and other logistical assistance to deploy their troops for protracted operations in Rwanda. International support for these African peacekeepers thus far has been limited to US assistance to the Ghanaian contingent, and Belgian aid for the Malawian unit. The Netherlands' offer of vehicles for the Zambian battalion is not enough for them to be deployed.

Misgivings about the mission. Command and control arrangements for UNAMIR II have not yet been made and areas of operation have yet to be selected for various units. In addition, the division of administrative and budgetary responsibilities between national and UN personnel is still vague. Ethiopian officials have expressed serious reservations about the current lack of a clear mission statement for UNAMIR II. These issues, as well as concerns about the cost and mode

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of transporting their contingents to Rwanda, are shared by the vast majority of prospective African troop contributors.

Distractions and discouragement. Several African leaders are afraid their troops might experience the same failures and frustrations they encountered in other peacekeeping operations. Recent Zimbabwean casualties in Somalia will magnify the doubts Harare previously expressed about deploying to Kigali. Zambia's desire to have troops available for a possible Angolan peacekeeping force may also convince Lusaka to reassess its pledge to UNAMIR II, particularly if political and logistic concerns are not promptly addressed. The need to clarify UNAMIR II's Chapter Six peacekeeping mission will grow more urgent if Hutu military and militia members currently in Zaire seek to launch a low-level insurgency against the RPF in the near future.

Attachment:

Tab A: Summary of the status of proposed Sub-Saharan African troop contributors.

Tab B: Proposed contributions of each country.

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